

By Aileen McCabe

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/Obama+briefcase+packed+with+advice+China/2219438/story.html>

Leonard Leo, head of the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom**, sent a letter to the White House to urge Obama "to raise critical issues of religious freedom" in the decidedly atheist country.

Vienna-based International Press Institute suggested in its letter to the president, that in talks with Hu, Obama make a point "to highlight China's continued mistreatment, harassment and censorship of journalists and to make sure the country's unacceptable record on press freedom is not overshadowed by the international community's desire to do business with China."

For its part, the Committee for the Protection of Journalists called on Obama to press Hu to release the 26 writers and editors held in prisons across China.